

# GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is a new law that determines how your personal data is processed and kept safe, and the legal rights that you have in relation to your own data.

The regulation applies from 25 May 2018, and will apply even after the UK leaves the EU.

## What GDPR will mean for patients

The GDPR sets out the key principles about processing personal data, for staff or patients;

- ✓ Data must be processed lawfully, fairly and transparently
- ✓ It must be collected for specific, explicit and legitimate purposes
- ✓ It must be limited to what is necessary for the purposes for which it is processed
- ✓ Information must be accurate and kept up to date
- ✓ Data must be held securely
- ✓ It can only be retained for as long as is necessary for the reasons it was collected

There are also stronger rights for patients regarding the information that practices hold about them. These include;

- ✓ Being informed about how their data is used
- ✓ Patients to have access to their own data
- ✓ Patients can ask to have incorrect information changed
- ✓ Restrict how their data is used
- ✓ Move their patient data from one health organisation to another
- ✓ The right to object to their patient information being processed (in certain circumstances)

## **Important information for patients**

### **How we use your medical records**

- This practice handles medical records in-line with laws on data protection and confidentiality.
- We share medical records with those who are involved in providing you with care and treatment.
- In some circumstances we will also share medical records for medical research, for example to find out more about why people get ill.
- We share information when the law requires us to do so, for example, to prevent infectious diseases from spreading or to check the care being provided to you is safe .
- You have the right to be given a copy of your medical record.
- You have the right to object to your medical records being shared with those who provide you with care.
- You have the right to object to your information being used for medical research and to plan health services.
- You have the right to have any mistakes corrected and to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office.
- For more information on your rights or to request a copy of our Practice Privacy Notice you can contact the Practice on 02881648216/02881648292 or email [reception1@gp.hscni.net](mailto:reception1@gp.hscni.net) . Alternatively you can visit reception at either site to request a copy.